

Testimony of

Sara Cavanaugh

Southington Educator

Before the

Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

The educator bill or rights would ensure that all educators feel safe. Multiple times a week classrooms are cleared because students are throwing things or screaming or spitting on adults. How can this be in the best interest of students when most resources are now pulled to address this one student who is acting out? It also shows respect for our profession and what we need to accomplish day to day and actually feel SAFE in our working environment. I've heard so many educators say how their heart will race because some behaviors are so unpredictable. Anything might set a child off. Everyone deserves to feel safe in their workplace.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

